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October 20, 2003

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service  
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Wednesday, October 15, 2003, on behalf of the Alliance of Rural CMRS Carriers ("ARCC"), undersigned counsel met with Jessica Rosenworcel in Commissioner Copps' office to discuss the Joint Board's ongoing proceeding on universal service and the status of the ETC petitions of Smith Bagley, Inc., Virginia Cellular, LLC, and Guam Cellular and Paging, Inc. d/b/a Saipancell.

In addition to the pending ETC petitions referenced above, the topics of discussion included: alternative methodologies for providing support; the public interest standard for designating additional ETCs in areas served by rural ILECs; the relevance of disaggregation to service area redefinition; and conditions imposed on ETCs. During the meeting, counsel presented ARCC's position on these issues consistent with its previous filings in this docket.

Marlene H. Dortch

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If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

/s/

David A. LaFuria

cc: Jessica Rosenworcel, Esq.